FIRST HOME GAME SATURDAY

Bears-Colts Preview
Begins On Page 8

DOUG BUFFONE'S
Chicago
BEAR REPORT

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A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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A Newspaper Devoted Exclusively
To The Chicago Bears and The NFL

Vol. 11, No. 3 August 18, 1986

On The Cover...

OFFENSIVE linemen Jim Covert (left) and Tom Thayer go through one of their favorite training camp drills, wind sprints. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Commentary

By
Doug
Buffone

Bears Continue To Improve

Before this pre-season began, I really had my doubts as to how the Bears could improve over last season. After all, when a team goes 18-1 and romps in the Super Bowl, it's hard to believe that club can get better.

However, after viewing last Saturday night's 33-13 victory over Pittsburgh, I am convinced the Bears have improved. Actually, they have improved quite a bit.

THERE ARE A few areas where the Bears appear to be stronger than last year. One of them is at quarterback. Last year, they had two capable signal-callers in Jim McMahon and Steve Fuller. But third-stringr Mike Tomczak wasn't quite ready to take the helm yet. All of that has changed. Tomczak played like a seasoned veteran against Pittsburgh, as he guided the Bears to three touchdowns and a field goal. I bet Chuck Noll was shaking his head trying to figure out how a third-string QB could tear his team apart like that.

Tomczak completed 17 of 23 passes for 238 yards, and looked sharp doing it. He threw on the run quite often, and avoided the strong Steeler rush. When his primary receivers weren't open, he hit the secondary targets. Head coach Mike Ditka now knows Tomczak can be counted on during the regular season this year.

Other areas of improvement for the Bears involve special teams. Even though Lew Barnes caught a case of rookie fumblitis during last Saturday's game, he made up for it with his punt return for a touchdown. Barnes showed how important it is to have a weapon like that. Not only is he quick, but he has the moves to break away from the pack. When a team has a weapon like that, it forces opponents to become a bit scared when they punt the ball. That usually leads to shanks and out of bounds kicks.

ANOTHER SPECIAL TEAMS area which has improved is kickoff coverage. The Bears gave up a lot of return yardage last year, but it appears they have solved that problem. The key to this improvement is Brian Baschnagel. The steady veteran is always Johnny on the spot when it comes to kickoff and punt coverage. I played with Basch and he has always been a great special teams player. There's no way you can keep this guy off the squad this year.

Obviously, there are still some areas the Bears need to work on before the regular season begins. The running game hasn't quite jelled yet, but then again, Walter Payton has played very little. Once again, the Bears should have the best rushing attack in the NFL.

The defensive players appear to be adapting well to the new system installed by Vince Tobin. Even though the defense has only been using basic formations in these preseason games, the unit is still coming up with many big plays. Just wait until the defense is going full speed.

It appears there is going to be an interesting battle for the punting spot. Rookie John Teltschik looks sharp, and didn't hurt his chances by averaging 45 yards per kick vs. the Steelers. He will give incumbent Maury Buford a run for his money.

Hopefully Jim McMahon and Payton will be healthy enough to get considerable playing time vs. the Colts next Saturday. Both players need to get all the bugs out before the regular season begins.

FULLBACK CALVIN THOMAS (left) congratulates Brian Baschnagel after the Bears' wide receiver scores a touchdown on a four-yard pass from Mike Tomczak in the second quarter. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Bears Increase Pre-Season Mark To 2-0

Tomczak Throws Three TD Passes In Victory

By Mark Friedlander

PITTSBURGH — It doesn't matter if the Bears are still suffering from jet lag due to their long journey back from London.

It doesn't matter that Walter Payton and Jim McMahon are nursing minor injuries and can't play.

IT DOESN'T MATTER if the Bears' defense isn't blitzing, and is using formations as basic as vanilla ice cream.

The Bears still find a way to win.

Under the direction of third-string quarterback Mike Tomczak, who came off the bench to complete 17 of 23 passes for 238 yards and three touchdowns, the Bears recorded their second consecutive pre-season victory, as they romped 33-13 over the Pittsburgh Steelers last Saturday night at Three Rivers Stadium.

"IT'S AMAZING," said head coach Mike Ditka following the win. "You guys (the media) saw some of our practices this week. They weren't the most spirited things I've ever seen. Evidently, the minds were working. The concentration was there. They knew what they were doing out there."

"The incredible thing about this team is we don't even play people like McMahon and Payton, and we still win," added LB Al Harris. "This team just knows it's going to win."

Tomczak has been under Ditka's microscope throughout this training camp. Just a few days before the Pittsburgh game, Ditka told reporters Tomczak wasn't guaranteed a spot on the roster this year. After his performance against the Steelers, the coach was asked who his number two quarterback was. "It's a toss up between Fuller and McMahon," Ditka quipped.

ON A MORE serious note, Ditka said: "That was a career in one game. I've never seen an exhibition like that."

Ditka was pleased with all phases of the Bears' performance vs. the AFC Central club. But he also realized this was only a pre-season game.

"The score is no indication of a game like this. Tonight means nothing. This is Pittsburgh's first time out of the blocks. We should have been better tonight, because we've already been out once. We had our feet under us a little bit more than they did," Ditka said.

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR *Vince Tobin expressed* pleasure with the performance of his troops. The unit allowed 270 yards, recorded four sacks, and one fumble recovery. Before the Steelers scored a touchdown in the fourth quarter, the defense had not allowed a six-pointer during this pre-season.

"I didn't have any illusions about going through the year without giving up any touchdowns," Tobin said with a laugh.

LINEBACKER AL HARRIS (90) tries to get away from Jessie Britt (left) and Dan Reeder. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Quarterback Steve Fuller, who started in place of Jim McMahon (pulled groin muscle) wasn't laughing when he had a pass intercepted on the fourth play of the game. But the Bear defense got the ball back quickly. Two plays after the interception, Dave Duerson recovered a Steeler fumble, and returned the ball five yards to the Bear 40. That set up the Bears' first scoring drive.

ON THE SECOND play, Fuller connected with WR Willie Gault on a 41-yard pass. The speedster got the ball *down to the Steeler 18. A 15-yard scramble by Fuller* got the ball as far as the Pittsburgh 3. But the Bears had to settle for a 19-yard field goal by Kevin Butler, and it gave them a 3-0 lead.

A fumble by rookie Lew Barnes on a punt return helped the Steelers set up their first score. Pittsburgh recovered the ball at the Bear 44 and got as far as the 26, before Gary Anderson kicked a 43-yard field goal to tie the game at 3.

Late in the first quarter, Fuller was sacked by Bob Kohrs and Edmund Nelson, and had to leave the game. He wasn't injured seriously, but Tomczak took the quarterback reins for the remainder of the contest. It didn't take the two-year veteran out of Ohio State long to get the ball into the end zone. With 12 minutes to go in the second quarter, Tomczak connected with WR Ken Margerum on a 24-yard touchdown pass to put the Bears in the lead for good. Butler missed the extra point to keep the score at 9-3, but that miscue would be quickly forgotten.

"THE DEFENDER HAD me in the grasp. I faked it and hid the ball. I saw their strong safety coming, and then saw Kenny cross my face. I just laid it up there, and he made a super catch," said Tomczak of the touchdown.

"It's a play that shouldn't work against the defense they were running," added Ditka. "The guy ran right past Mike and he just stood up. It's the same play we beat Green Bay with two years ago. We beat Tampa with it once. It's a play we can only carry with us once in awhile. We were lucky it worked tonight. Sometimes it's better to be lucky than good."

Later in the quarter, Pittsburgh cut the lead to 9-6 on a 29-yard field goal by Anderson. That capped a 78-yard, 13-play drive.

WITH 1:43 LEFT in the half, the Bears began another scoring drive. Dennis Gentry opened the series at the Bear 27 with a 12-yard run. That was followed by a 27-yard pass from Tomczak to TE Pat Dunsmore, which got the ball down to the Steeler 33. Tomczak then connected with free agent WR Doug Donley on a 12-yard pass. Following a 3-yard run by Gentry, Tomczak hit Dunsmore on a 14-yard strike which moved the ball to the four. On the ensuing play, Tomczak teamed up with WR Brian Baschnagel on a four-yard touchdown pass to make it 16-6 Bears. The 72-yard, 6-play drive took just 1:36.

"We had a different play called than the one I used to hit Baschnagel," said Tomczak. "We couldn't have run the original play because we were too close to the goal line. So I just audibled."

Continued Page 14

QUARTERBACK MIKE TOMCZAK (18) completed nine consecutive passes in the second quarter. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Bears-Steelers Official Statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago Bears	3	13	3	14	— 33
Pittsburgh Steelers	3	3	0	7	— 13

Bears, 1, Butler, 19 FG (9-58-3:45)
Steelers, 1, Anderson, 43 FG (5-18-2:34)
Bears, 2, Margerum 24-yd. pass from Tomczak, kick no good (5-40-2:14)
Steelers, 2, Anderson 29-yd. FG (13-78-5:56)
Bears, 2, Baschnagel 4-yd. pass from Tomczak, Butler kick (6-72-1:36)
Bears, 3, Butler, 51-yd. FG (10-63-3:57)
Steelers, 4, Seitz 5-yd. pass from Campbell, Anderson kick (9-80-4:53)
Bears, 4, Sanders 61-yd. pass from Tomczak, Butler kick (4-80-2:20)
Bears, 4, Barnes 54-yd. punt return, Butler kick
Attendance: 57,001
Weather: Warm, temperature: 81°, wind and direction: west at 12 mph

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Steelers
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	21	18
By Rushing	8	5
By Passing	11	12
By Penalty	2	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	8-14	2-13
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0	0-0
TOTAL NET YARDS	399	270
Total Off. Plays (Inc. times passing)	60	64
Av. Gain per Off. Play	6.7	4.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	110	40
Total Rushing Plays	30	22
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	3.7	1.8
NET YARDS PASSING	289	230
Times Thrown — Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	1-3	4-23
Gross Yds. Passing	292	253
PASS ATT. — COMP. — HAD INTERCEPTED	29-20-1	38-19-0
Av. Gain Per Pass Play (Inc. times thrown passing)	9.6	5.5
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	4-36.3	8-41.6
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	108	126
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	5-73	2-4
No. and Yds. KO Returns	2-35	6-122
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	0-0	1-0
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	1-5	9-48
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	4-2	3-1
TOUCHDOWNS	4	1
Rushing	0	0
Passing	3	1
Returns	1	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	3-4	1-1
FG MADE — ATT.	2-2	2-3
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:36	30:24

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Chicago

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Gentry	8	31	3.9	12	0
Suhey	10	33	3.3	11	0
Fuller	2	20	10.0	15	0
Thomas	2	-2	-1.0	2	0
Tomczak	1	3	3.0	3	0
Sanders	5	15	3.0	5	0
Jones	2	10	5.0	7	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Fuller	6	3	54	1/3	0	41	1
Tomczak	23	17	238	0/0	3	61	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Suhey	2	11	6	0
Gault	1	41	41	0
Gentry	2	8	7	0
Margerum	2	41	24	1
Dunsmore	3	47	27	0
Thomas	1	3	3	0
Donley	1	12	12	0
Baschnagel	1	4	4	1
Sanders	3	95	61	1
Stracka	2	12	7	0
Barnes	1	5	5	0
Knapczyk	1	13	13	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
None				

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Teltschik	3	135	45.0	0	2	53
Buford	1	10	10.0	0	0	10

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Barnes	4	0	73	54	1
Sanders	1	0	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Barnes	2	35	20	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own Rec.	Yds.	TD	Opp. Rec.	Yds.
Duerson	0	0	0	0	1	5
Barnes	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tomczak	1	1	0	0	0	0
Gentry	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sanders	1	0	0	0	0	0

Pittsburgh

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Erenberg	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
Reeder	2	4	2.0	2	0
Brown	6	17	2.8	4	0
Malone	1	-8	-8.0	-8	0
Carter	2	9	4.5	12	0
Hooper	6	9	1.5	8	0
Gay	2	11	5.5	8	0
Seitz	2	1	0.5	2	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Malone	18	8	119	1/3	0	22	0
Campbell	20	11	134	3/20	1	24	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Erenberg	1	18	18	0
Reeder	2	19	16	0
Sweeney	3	50	22	0
Carter	2	23	14	0
Brown	1	12	12	0
Baker	3	61	24	0
Gothard	1	8	8	0
Britt	1	24	24	0
Seitz	4	42	15	1
Hooper	*1*	*-4*	*-4*	*0*

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
E. Williams	1	0	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Newsome	3	128	42.7	0	0	49
Superick	5	206	41.2	1	1	54

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Tucker	2	0	4	7	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Tucker	6	122	37	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own Rec.	Yds.	TD	Opp. Rec.	Yds.
E. Williams	1	0	0	0	0	0
Erenberg	1	0	0	0	0	0
Shell	0	1	-1	0	0	0
Malone	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	0	0	0	0	1	0
Holmes	0	0	0	0	1	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS
(Unofficial)

Chicago

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Dent	2	1	1	3	0	0	0
Duerson	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Jackson	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Fencik	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Keys	1	0	1	8	0	1	0
Hartenstine	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perry	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gayle	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
McMichael	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglass	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dwyer	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylor, G.	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	2	1	1	7	0	0	0
Richardson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thorp	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taylor, K.	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Morrissey	1	0	1	5	0	0	0
Rains	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rivera	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

HEAD COACH MIKE Ditka displayed a new sport jacket at the Pittsburgh game last Saturday. (Bear Report photo *by Jonathan Daniel)*

Pittsburgh

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Tuggle	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cole	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hinkle	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Willis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Williams	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Shell	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Clayton	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Carr	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodruff	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winston	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Sheffield	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Edwards	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Holmes	2	2	0	0	0	1	1
Henton	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jacobs	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sims	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kohrs	1	0	1	3	0	0	0
Merriweather	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woods	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Callahan	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swain	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warnock	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sykes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bryant	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Bears' Hotline

Every day through Super Bowl Sunday, C. MAD Communications will provide Bears fans with up-to-date information on the club with the Official Chicago Bears Hotline. The Hotline will feature player interviews, profiles, previews, highlights, scores and much, much more.

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The Official Bears Hotline, which is in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week, can be reached at 312/855-7474.

Quite A Week In London

PLATTEVILLE, WI — Whatever the London trip took out of the Bears in time, it should have replaced in good feeling.

The lingering memory is of the overwhelming curiosity about a sport totally foreign to the British culture.

INDEED, FANS IN Wembley Stadium insist no one was directing the chants of "Boring! Boring!" toward the Bears and Cowboys after all, even though they might have been forgiven by anyone other than Bears' coach Mike Ditka.

They were yelling "Boring" at fellow fans who finally were refusing to join in the wave that circled the stadium

By Don Pierson

a record number of times.

Ditka thought they had grown weary of the exhibition and chastised them for failing to understand how difficult it is to make a preseason opener exciting from start to finish.

BUT THE TRUTH is, the English simply loved the Bears and the game, no matter how hard the Bears tried to act nonchalant about it all. One fan even gave the shirt off his back and the pants off his legs to get a closer look at his heroes.

For the players, it was the kind of experience they will sneak up on their memories when the time is proper. It was difficult for most of them to enjoy a vacation in the middle of a work week, as anyone who tries to mix business with pleasure can attest.

"It's hard enough to concentrate in Platteville, where the people love you to death," said guard Joe Spivak, who is trying to make the Bears for the second time. "In London, you're in a whole new country and you're still put on a pedestal because you're with the Chicago Bears. With all that glitter, you've got to keep things in the right perspective."

GUARD RICK SCHULTE had just joined the Bears four days before they departed. The former USFL player injured a hamstring muscle in Platteville and spent much of his time in London icing his leg in the bed of his hotel room. His teammates tried to get him out on the town, but he refused.

"Rick Schulte doesn't care if I'm in London," said Rick Schulte.

London cared about the Bears, however, and that was the purpose of the trip for the National Football League, which hopes to take advantage of a huge market for television and souvenirs.

THE EXPERIENCE WAS a reminder to players that their sport has tremendous appeal. Such popularity can often be taken for granted in the states.

Soccer has been trying to get a toe-hold in the United States for years, yet when was the last time a soccer game drew 80,000 here?

Jim McMahon explained the interest in basic terms.

"I'M GLAD THEY enjoy it. It's a good sport. It's just men trying to beat the crap out of each other is all that it is," he said.

William "The Fridge" Perry could have taken his place among the world leaders and the British royalty in Madame Toussaud's wax museum had he only asked.

The British see football players as cartoon characters bouncing off of each other for no apparent reason. And who is a more appealing cartoon character than Perry?

ACCORDING TO THE Brits, the violence of American football makes for wholesome family entertainment, unlike soccer. Some British are afraid to take their families to soccer games, which too often deteriorate into battlegrounds for gangs.

In American football, they explain, all the violence takes place on the field and fans can release their own emotions vicariously.

The day before the Bears-Cowboys game, 14 fans were

Continued Next Page

QUARTERBACK JIM McMAHON (left) congratulates Lew Barnes after the rookie scores on a punt return. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Get 'em while they're hot...

The Bears are hot after winning Super Bowl XX and already have their sights set on Super Bowl XXI at the Rose Bowl.

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London

Continued From Page 5

arrested for fighting at a preseason soccer match. Headlines blared: "Here We Go Again"

POLICE ROUTINELY separate fans at soccer games to discourage gang fights.

For a society so apparently polite and staid, the British seem to enjoy physical sports, although not many of them become heavyweight boxers.

One of the highlights of the Bears-Cowboys game for the fans was an incident that would go unnoticed in America. Bears' defensive end Tyrone Keys thought he was drawn offside, so he knocked the Cowboy across from him on his can before the snap of the ball.

THE CROWD ROARED its approval at the gratuitous contact, even though the Bears were penalized five yards when officials disagreed with Keys' view. In Chicago, the play would have elicited only a disgusted yawn.

The time change knocked some of the players out. The Cowboys, traveling from Thousand Oaks, Cal., had to come through two more time zones than the Bears.

"I have to go buy a watch," said Al Harris on the second day. "I have no clue to what time it is. My body is telling me one thing and my mind is telling me something else."

WILLIE GAULT HAD made 10 trips to Europe during his career in track and warned that it would take three weeks to recover.

Some players adjusted to the time change by not adjusting at all. They slept a lot during the day and stayed up most of the night. The midnight curfew turned out to be more like an alarm for some, who managed to find places open long past the traditional 11:30 closing of the pubs.

Wakeup call was 6 a.m. with meetings starting at 7.

"I'VE SEEN MORE guys late for meetings this week than in all the weeks I've been with the Bears," said Spivak.

The 9:30 a.m. bus ride to practices meant another hour of sleep. Upon their return at 3, they could grab a few more hours before hitting the town.

The Bears signed an Englishman named Russell Wilsmer to kick off for them at Wembley.

"WE WANT THE crowd to be on our side," said personnel director Bill Tobin.

It was wonderful public relations that wasn't necessary. The crowd immediately embraced the Bears at first sight, long before Wilsmer was announced.

"Dallas Cowboys might proudly call themselves America's Team, but the classic Wembley roar that greeted Jim McMahon, Walter Payton, and William "The Refrigerator" Perry and Co., showed the Bears are now England's Team," wrote Barry Flatman of the *Daily Express.*

When was the last time 82,000 could fit into Soldier Field? Add Wembley to the Bears' list of alternative playing sites.

LINEBACKER MIKE SINGLETARY (right) sets his sights on Pittsburgh quarterback Mark Malone. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Tomczak and McMahon: A Perfect Duo

What might happen to the Bears' offense if Jim McMahon's nagging groin pull refuses to heal? McMahon played one quarter in London, and not at all in Pittsburgh last week. The problem with a groin pull is that the best remedy is rest, and that's something an NFL starting quarterback doesn't get until mid-winter.

Because of the nature of McMahon's injury, the Bears will be forced to carry three quarterbacks. At Pittsburgh, Steve Fuller got the start and lasted almost a full quarter

By Dick Gonski

before getting his bell rung. Mike Tomczak came off the bench and gave a display similar to the Jim McMahon performance at Minnesota last year.

THIS SITUATION IS nothing new for Fuller. When McMahon nearly lost a kidney against the Raiders two years ago, Fuller stepped in and led the Bears to the playoffs. Fuller is a much more reserved personality than McMahon. He is less spectacular and much less emotional. The problem is that the Bears' offense seems to become a reflection of its quarterback. With Fuller at the helm, it becomes less spectacular and kind of dull.

In the past, Fuller has shown a tendency to take a sack rather than throw the ball away to save yardage. A veteran like Fuller should know better by now. The Bears' offense under Fuller's guidance would be a grind-it-out style with very few long downfield pass plays. Willie Gault would be almost useless.

On the other hand, Tomczak is a fiery type much like McMahon. Going into Pittsburgh, Tomczak's ears were still burning from Mike Ditka's comments earlier in the week. Ditka said, "I've got to see more out of Tomczak than I have so far." Ditka felt that Tomczak was not picking up his receivers properly and that he would have to earn his spot this year.

TOMCZAK RESPONDED WITH the best performance of his career. Playing little more than a quarter in the first half, Tomczak connected on nine of ten passes for 108 yards and two touchdowns. He executed the two-minute drill to perfection, hitting fellow Ohio State alum Brian Baschnagel for a last-second touchdown. The team seemed to respond better to Tomczak than to Fuller.

He also combined with Ken Margerum on a spectacular touchdown play on both ends. Tomczak threw while falling to Margerum, who made a diving catch in the end zone. Both Tomczak and Margerum had felt Ditka's stinging needle and both responded like pros. Ditka's method of acupuncture may be better than the kind used on McMahon prior to the Super Bowl.

Tomczak poured it on in the second half. With the ball on the Bears' one-yard line, he used play-action and hit Dennis Gentry at the Pittsburgh 25, a gutty call. McMahon did the same thing in the Super Bowl on the first play of the second half. Notice the similarity between McMahon and Tomczak?

LATER IN THE second half, Tomczak scrambled out of the pocket and lofted a 61-yard touchdown pass to Thomas Sanders. At that point of the game, his statistics read like this: 15 of 19, 220 yards, 3 touchdowns in 2½ quarters.

The Bears' offense functions more efficiently with a take-charge type of quarterback. Tomczak fits the picture better than Fuller. It wouldn't be surprising to see Tomczak move up to No. 2 quarterback on the depth chart before the season opener.

He has the heady confidence of a much older quarterback. His ability as a passer is complimented nicely by his ability to move around in the pocket, and to scramble when necessary. Fran Tarkenton made it all the way to the Hall of Fame with very similar qualities. He, too, was a fiery leader. He made things happen on the field, some-

Continued Page 10

QUARTERBACK MIKE TOMCZAK completed 17 of 23 passes for 238 yards and three touchdowns vs. Pittsburgh. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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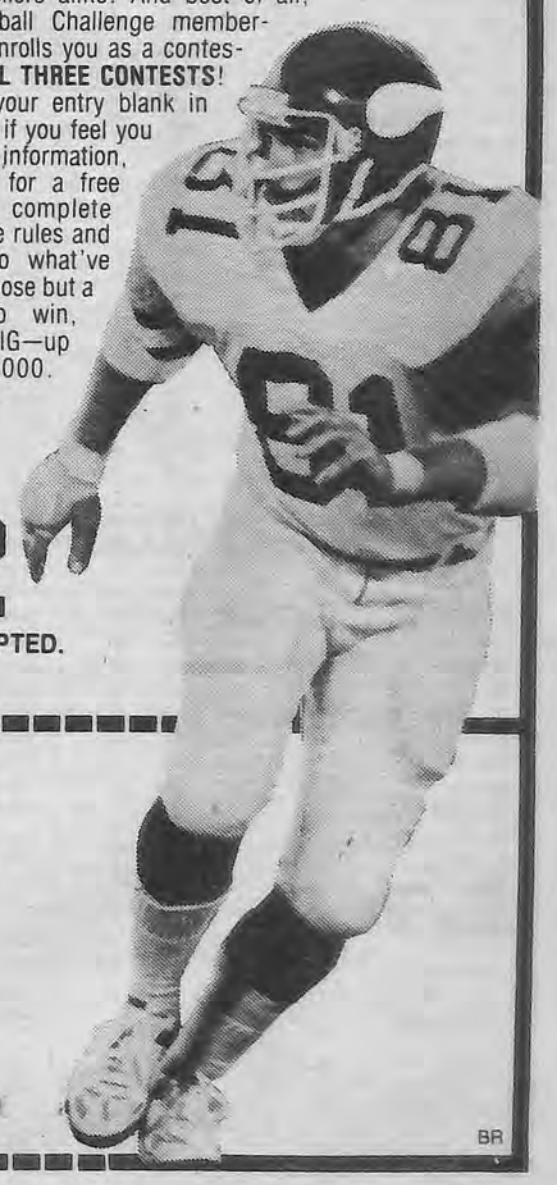

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Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears

Saturday, August 16

Soldier Field

Chicago, Illinois

6 p.m. CDT

Indianapolis Colts Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
2	Raul Allegre	K	5-10	173	27	4	Texas
3	Rohn Stark	P	6-3	202	27	5	Florida State
4	Dean Biasucci	K	6-0	198	24	2	Western Carolina
5	Blair Kiel	QB	6-2	216	24	2	Notre Dame
7	Gary Hogeboom	QB	6-4	207	27	7	Cent. Michigan
8	Chris White	K	5-11	168	24	R	Illinois
10	Jack Trudeau	QB	6-3	211	22	R	Illinois
20	Albert Bentley	RB	5-11	210	25	2	Miami
21	Tim Chambers	DB	5-10	198	22	1	Pennsylvania
23	Milton Williams	RB	6-1	207	28	R	Norwich
25	Nesby Glasgow	SS	5-10	186	29	8	Washington
26	James Harbour	WR	6-0	198	23	1	Mississippi
27	Terry Lewis	DB	5-10	195	23	2	Michigan State
28	Trell Hooper	DB	5-11	181	24	R	Memphis State
29	Don Holmes	WR	5-10	174	25	1	Mesa College
30	George Radachowsky	DB	6-0	188	23	3	Boston College
31	Leonard Coleman	S	6-2	197	24	2	Vanderbilt
32	Randy McMillan	FB	6-0	216	27	6	Pittsburgh
34	George Wonsley	HB	6-0	220	25	3	Mississippi State
35	Tate Randle	S	6-0	204	26	5	Texas Tech
36	Don Anderson	CB	5-10	197	23	2	Purdue
37	Anthony Young	SS	5-11	188	22	2	Temple
38	Eugene Daniel	CB	6-0	178	25	3	Louisiana State
39	Michael Holston	WR	6-3	193	28	6	Morgan State
40	Newton Williams	RB	5-10	221	27	3	Arizona State
41	Jeff Gethers	CB	5-10	188	22	R	North Carolina St.
42	Jim Rockford	DB	5-8	175	24	1	Oklahoma
43	Bill Brooks	WR	5-11	190	22	R	Boston University
44	Owen Gill	FB	6-1	230	24	2	Iowa
45	Tommy Sims	DB	6-0	190	21	R	Tennessee
46	Melvin Carver	RB	5-11	221	27	3	Nev.-Las Vegas
47	Hubert Oliver	FB	5-10	225	28	4	Arizona
48	Kefi McGregor	TE	6-6	244	23	2	Colorado State
50	Duane Bickett	LB	6-5	241	23	2	Southern Cal
51	Ricky Chatman	LB	6-2	231	24	1	Louisiana State
52	Rossevelt Barnes	LB	6-3	227	28	5	Purdue
53	Ray Donaldson	C	6-4	282	28	7	Georgia
54	Lawrence Green	LB	6-2	243	24	2	Tenn-Chatt.
55	Barry Krauss	LB	6-3	239	29	8	Alabama
56	Lamonte Hunley	LB	6-2	241	23	2	Arizona
57	Dave Ahrens	LB	6-3	245	27	6	Wisconsin
58	Greg Battle	LB	6-1	222	22	R	Arizona State
59	Orlando Lowry	LB	6-4	237	24	2	Ohio State
60	Gary Walker	C	6-3	263	22	R	Boston University
61	Don Bailey	C	6-4	267	25	3	Miami
63	Mark Kirchner	OT	6-3	265	26	3	Baylor
64	Ben Utt	OG	6-5	281	27	5	Georgia Tech
65	Isaac Williams	DT	6-1	269	21	R	Florida State
66	Ron Solt	OG	6-3	279	24	3	Maryland
67	Roger Caron	OT	6-5	275	24	2	Harvard
68	Willie Broughton	DE	6-5	277	21	2	Miami
71	Kevin Call	OT	6-7	293	24	3	Colorado State
72	Karl Baldischwiler	OT	6-5	276	30	8	Oklahoma
73	Steve O'Malley	NT	6-3	265	23	R	N. Illinois
74	Bob Brotzki	OT	6-5	269	23	R	Syracuse
75	Chris Hinton	OT	6-4	288	25	4	Northwestern
76	Frank Wright	NT	6-3	274	24	1	South Carolina
79	Steve Wright	OL	6-6	269	27	5	Northern Iowa
80	Ricky Nichols	WR	5-10	177	24	2	East Carolina
81	Pat Beach	TE	6-4	244	26	4	Washington State
83	Tim Sherwin	TE	6-6	247	28	6	Boston College
84	Mark Boyer	TE	6-4	239	23	2	Southern Cal
85	Matt Bouza	WR	6-3	208	28	5	California
86	Oliver Williams	WR	6-3	192	25	2	Illinois
87	Wayne Capers	WR	6-2	197	25	4	Kansas
88	Robbie Martin	WR	5-8	182	27	6	Cal Poly-SLO
90	John Haines	DL	6-7	266	24	1	Texas
91	Byron Smith	DE	6-5	264	23	3	California
92	Brad White	DT	6-2	263	27	6	Tennessee
93	Jeff Leiding	LB	6-3	229	24	1	Texas
94	Brad Saar	LB	6-1	224	23	R	Ball State
95	Chris Scott	DE	6-5	267	24	3	Purdue
96	Blaise Winter	DE	6-3	275	24	2	Syracuse
97	Charles Benson	DE	6-3	292	25	4	Baylor
98	Johnie Cooks	LB	6-4	251	27	5	Mississippi St.
99	Donnell Thompson	DE	6-5	272	27	6	North Carolina

QUARTERBACK GARY HOGEBOOM

Special to the BEAR REPORT

INDIANAPOLIS — It isn't much fun playing in the same division as the defending AFC champion Patriots, perennial Super Bowl contender Miami, and the always highly-rated Jets.

But Rod Dowhower's Indianapolis Colts aren't complaining about being part of one of the toughest divisions in the NFL. Instead, they are trying to improve themselves as quickly as possible in order to compete for a playoff berth.

"**LAST YEAR, WE** established our philosophy and approach, but we need to improve our passing game," said Dowhower. He hasn't wasted any time in fixing up the passing department. Gary Hogeboom was acquired from Dallas in a trade the day before the draft. Illinois signal-caller Jack Trudeau was drafted on the second round, and former Notre Dame standout Blair Kiel was signed as a free agent. Former Colts' starter Mike Pagel is now a member of the Cleveland Browns.

"In some ways, I was sort of amazed of how it's worked out," says Dowhower. "It's tough to orchestrate changes like the QB situation, and the potential is there for us to have a very good QB situation."

At the beginning of camp, Dowhower named Hogeboom his starter, and has been impressed with the way the seven-year veteran out of Central Michigan is handling the job.

"**WE ARE VERY** pleased with Gary's progress. He is developing as we expected, and he has shown us the throwing ability we anticipated he had when we made the trade for him. He has an excellent arm, solid quarterbacking mechanics and the ability to be a leader."

Dowhower says the passing game won't improve at all if he doesn't get better production out of the club's receiving corps. The passing attack ranked dead last in the AFC last year.

"The receivers are going to have to come forward and show consistency. That will be the key to our passing game," said Dowhower. Among the candidates to start are returning veterans Matt Bouza (27 receptions for 381 yards, 2 TDs) and Wayne Capers (25 for 438, 4 TDs) Dowhower is also high on fourth-round draft choice Bill Brooks (Boston University) and James Harbour, the club's seventh-round pick in '85 who spent the entire year on

Continued Page 10

Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	29	8	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	195	24	2	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-1	191	26	5	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	27	5	BYU
10	John Teltschik	P	6-1	207	22	R	Texas
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas A & M
21	Leslie Frazier	CB	6-0	187	27	6	Alcorn St.
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	25	4	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	24	3	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	DB	6-0	186	22	R	Washington
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	28	7	Penn State
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	25	4	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	27	5	Baylor
30	Jeff Powell	RB	5-10	170	23	R	Tennessee
31	Ken Taylor	CB	6-1	185	22	2	Oregon State
32	Bruce Jones	SS	6-1	195	23	R	Alabama
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	26	5	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	12	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	21	R	Florida
36	Maurice Douglass	DB	5-11	200	22	R	Kentucky
37	Barton Hundley	SS	5-11	187	22	R	Kansas State
40	Jack Cameron	DB	6-0	180	24	2	Winston-Salem
43	Egypt Allen	DB	600	203	21	R	TCU
44	Henry Jackson	LB	6-0	225	23	R	Angelo
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	32	11	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	25	2	SMU
49	Riley Walton	TE	6-3	220	23	R	Tenn St.
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	27	6	Baylor
51	Chris Jackson	C	6-4	250	23	1	SMU
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan State
52	Cliff Thrift	LB	6-1	230	32	8	E. Central OK
53	Dan Rains	LB	6-1	229	32	3	Cincinnati
54	Brian Cabral	LB	6-1	227	32	7	Colorado
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G/C	6-4	261	24	2	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	24	3	California
60	Tom Andrews	C	6-4	267	25	3	Louisville
60	Steve Jacobson	DT	6-3	245	23	R	Abil. Christian
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	25	4	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	27	6	Iowa
64	Joe Spivak	G	6-0	285	24	1	Illinois St.
64	Gerald Taylor	LB	6-2	235	22	R	TCU
65	Rick Shulte	G	6-3	260	22	1	Illinois
68	Paul Blair	OT	6-4	275	22	R	Oklahoma State
69	Marvin Ayers	DE	6-5	255	22	R	Grambling
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	27	5	Nebraska
71	Andy Frederick	T	6-6	265	31	10	New Mexico
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	308	23	2	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstine	DE	6-3	254	32	12	Penn State
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	26	4	Pittsburgh
75	Mike Dwyer	DT	6-2	265	23	R	U. of Mass.
75	Stefan Humphries	G	6-3	263	24	3	Michigan
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	28	7	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	280	28	6	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	267	27	5	Michigan
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	26	2	UCLA
81	David Williams	WR	6-3	187	23	R	Illinois
82	Ken Margerum	WR	6-0	180	27	5	Stanford
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Tennessee
84	Brian Baschnagel	WR	6-0	193	32	10	Ohio State
85	Dennis McKinnon	WR	6-1	185	24	4	Florida St.
86	Brad Anderson	WR	6-2	198	25	3	Arizona
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	32	10	Colorado
88	Pat Dunsmore	TE	6-3	237	26	3	Drake
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	22	2	McNeese State
90	Al Harris	LB	6-5	253	29	6	Arizona St.
92	Lew Barnes	WR	5-8	163	23	R	Oregon
93	Glen Kozlowski	WR	6-1	193	23	R	Brigham Young
94	Ken Knapczyk	WR	5-11	190	23	R	N. Iowa
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	25	4	Tenn State
96	Doug Donley	WR	6-1	180	27	5	Ohio State
96	Don Thorp	DT	6-4	255	23	2	Illinois
97	Tim Stracka	WR	6-4	212	26	2	Wisconsin
98	Tyrone Keys	DE	6-7	267	26	4	Miss. State
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	28	8	Arkansas

LINEBACKER WILBER MARSHALL (58) stops Indianapolis running back Randy McMillan. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

KEITH VAN HORNE (right) battles with Indianapolis defensive end Donnell Thompson. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears

Bears Offense

WR	83 Willie Gault, 86 Brad Anderson
LT	74 Jim Covert, 71 Andy Frederick
LG	62 Mark Bortz, 64 Joe Spivak
C	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 60 Tom Andrews
RG	57 Tom Thayer, 79 Kurt Becker
RT	78 Keith Van Horne, 71 Andy Frederick
TE	87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
WR	82 Ken Margerum, 89 Keith Ortego
RB	34 Walter Payton, 29 Dennis Gentry
FB	26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
QB	9 Jim McMahon, 4 Steve Fuller

Colts Offense

WR	85 Matt Bouza, 26 James Harbour
LT	75 Chris Hinton, 79 Steve Wright
LG	64 Ben Utt, 63 Mark Kirchner
C	53 Ray Donaldson, 61 Don Bailey
RG	66 Ron Solt, 67 Roger Caron
RT	72 Karl Baldischwiler, 71 Kevin Call
TE	81 Pat Beach, 84 Mark Boyer
WR	87 Wayne Capers, 43 Bill Brooks
QB	7 Gary Hogeboom, 10 Jack Trudeau
FB	32 Randy McMillan, 44 Owen Gill
HB	34 George Wonsley, 20 Albert Bentley

Bears Defense

LE	99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine
LT	76 Steve McMichael, 72 William Perry
RT	72 William Perry, 99 Dan Hampton
RE	95 Richard Dent, 98 Tyrone Keys
LLB	55 Otis Wilson, 59 Ron Rivera
MLB	50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
RLB	58 Wilber Marshall, 90 Al Harris
LC	27 Mike Richardson, 31 Ken Taylor
RC	48 Reggie Phillips, 31 Ken Taylor
SS	22 Dave Duerson, 23 Shaun Gayle
FS	45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle

Colts Defense

LE	99 Donnell Thompson, 95 Chris Scott
NT	92 Brad White, 68 Willie Broughton
RE	96 Blaise Winter, 73 Steve O'Malley
LOLB	98 Johnie Cooks, 59 Orlando Lowry
LILB	57 Dave Ahrens, 51 Ricky Chatman
RILB	55 Barry Krauss, 56 LaMonte Hunley
ROLB	50 Duane Bickett, 52 Roosevelt Barnes
LCB	31 Leonard Coleman, 41 Jeff Gethers
RCB	38 Eugene Daniel, 36 Don Anderson
SS	25 Nesby Glasgow, 30 Geo. Radachowsky
FS	37 Anthony Young, 35 Tate Randle

Bears Specialists

PK	6 Kevin Butler
P	8 Maury Buford, 10 John Teltschik
PR	89 Keith Ortego, 31 Ken Taylor
KR	83 Willie Gault, 29 Dennis Gentry
KC	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 57 Tom Thayer
PC	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 57 Tom Thayer
H	4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

Colts Specialists

P	3 Rohn Stark
K	2 Raul Allegre, 4 Dean Biasucci
H	3 Rohn Stark
PR	88 Robbie Martin, 80 Ricky Nichols
KR	20 Albert Bentley, 88 Robbie Martin
PC	61 Don Bailey, 60 Gary Walker
KC	53 Ray Donaldson, 81 Pat Beach

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Colts

Continued From Page 8

injured-reserve. The Colts are secure with TE Pat Beach, who had a team-leading 36 catches for 376 yards and 6 touchdowns in '85.

THE RUSHING ATTACK, which led the AFC last year, features Randy McMillan (858 yards on 190 carries, 7 TDs) and George Wonsley (716 yards on 138, 6 TDs). They run behind a solid offensive line which includes seven-year veteran center Ray Donaldson and Pro Bowl tackle Chris Hinton, the former Northwestern star.

Defensively, the Colts ranked ninth overall in the AFC last year (10th vs. rush, 10th vs. pass). Dowhower hopes top draft choice Jon Hand, a defensive end out of Alabama, can help the defense produce more than just the 18 sacks it recorded last season. The Colts defense includes LB Duane Bickett, the AP Defensive Rookie Of the Year in 1985, who led the team in sacks (6) and finished 3rd in tackles (141). The linebacking corps also includes Cliff Odom (192 total tackles), Barry Krauss (175) and Johnie Cooks (95).

Ends Donnell Thompson and Blaise Winter, and nose tackle Brad White, comprise the defensive line. CB Eugene Daniel tied for the AFC interception lead last year with eight following his all-rookie season in 1984. Free safety Anthony Young forced six fumbles in '85.

The Colts' special teams are among the best in the business. Punter Rohn Stark is the leading punter in NFL history with a 45.17 average during his five-year career. Punt returner Robbie Martin set a club record with 443 yards on 40 punt returns last year. Placekicker Raul Allegre (16 of 26 field goals in '85) is being challenged by seventh-round draft choice Chris White (Illinois)) and free agent Dean Biasucci (Western Carolina).

When the Colts face the Bears next Saturday at Soldier Field, Dowhower hopes the team will improve on its performance against the Seahawks in last Friday's pre-season opener. The Seahawks prevailed, 21-14.

WILLIAM PERRY (72) STOPS Pittsburgh fullback Gordon Brown. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Tomczak

Continued From Page 7

times in an unconventional way.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT McMahon would be the best man to lead the Bears in their quest for a second Super Bowl ring. But his inability to avoid injuries can not be ignored, certainly not by Ditka. This team is too solid to risk everything on one player. That's why a solid backup quarterback is a must for the 1986 Bears.

That man must not change the character of the offense when he enters a lineup. He must inspire the offensive unit as McMahon does. He must be able to throw long to Gault, and he must be enough of a magician to come up with the big play that will keep a drive alive. Above all, Ditka must have confidence in him.

If Ditka concludes that neither Fuller nor Tomczak is such a player, he must go out and get one before the opener. McMahon's health is too questionable to take for granted.

But if Tomczak continues to perform like he did in Pittsburgh, Ditka won't have to make a move. He'll have the answer right under his nose. Tomczak appears to be ready to accept the role, and the offense seems willing to add its stamp of approval.

The next three pre-season games will tell a lot about Tomczak and McMahon. The stakes are too high to allow a mid-season injury to McMahon to wipe out the Bears' chances to repeat as Super Bowl champs. Tomczak will push Fuller to the limit for the back-up job. Who knows? He may wind up pushing McMahon.

Bears' Schedule

PRE-SEASON

BEARS 17, Dallas Cowboys 6
BEARS 33, Pittsburgh Steelers 13

Sat., Aug. 16 ..... INDIANAPOLIS COLTS, 6 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 23 ..... ST. LOUIS CARDINALS, 7 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 30 ..... vs. Buffalo Bills at Notre Dame Stadium, Noon

REGULAR SEASON

Sun., Sept. 7 ..... CLEVELAND BROWNS, Noon
Sun., Sept. 14 ..... PHILADELPHIA EAGLES, Noon
Mon., Sept. 22 ..... at Green Bay Packers, 8 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 28 ..... at Cincinnati Bengals, Noon
Sun., Oct. 5 ..... MINNESOTA VIKINGS, Noon
Sun., Oct. 12 ..... at Houston Oilers, Noon
Sun., Oct. 19 ..... at Minnesota Vikings, Noon
Sun., Oct. 26 ..... DETROIT LIONS, Noon
Mon., Nov. 3 ..... L.A. RAMS, 8 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 9 ..... at Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Noon
Sun., Nov. 16 ..... at Atlanta Falcons, Noon
Sun., Nov. 23 ..... GREEN BAY PACKERS, Noon
Sun., Nov. 30 ..... PITTSBURGH STEELERS, Noon
Sun., Dec. 7 ..... TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS, Noon
Mon., Dec. 15 ..... at Detroit Lions, 8 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 21 ..... at Dallas Cowboys, 3 p.m.

(home games in CAPS) *(all times Central)*

Next Week's Issue

Next week's issue of the **BEAR REPORT** will feature detailed coverage of the Bears' pre-season game vs. the Colts. It also will include an in-depth preview of the upcoming exhibition contest vs. the Cardinals.

Drug Testing Conflict

Last Saturday's Bears-Steelers game was almost forfeited by the Bears due to a conflict between players and management over drug testing. When management asked the players to take a drug test last week, they balked saying they had already taken one during the May mini-camp. Due to the conflict, a practice session was cancelled. Eventually, the players agreed to submit to a test within the next two weeks, but only after a representative of the NFL discusses drug abuse and prevention with the club.

No News With Bell

Last week, general manager Jerry Vainisi met with holdout safety Todd Bell, Bell's father, and his agent Howard Slusher. But it appears no progress was made in getting the all-pro back on the squad. Slusher and the Bells left town after the meeting, and all parties concerned have refused to comment on the situation. Vainisi says he has not spoken with Neal Anderson's agent, Steve Rappenecker, in over two weeks. Anderson is the club's first-round draft choice.

Bruce Jones Returns

Seventh-round draft choice Bruce Jones, the safety from North Alabama who went AWOL before the London trip, returned to the Bears' camp at Platteville last week. He recorded three tackles and one assist vs. the Steelers.

First Cuts Made

Head coach Mike Ditka made his first batch of cuts last week. Placed on waivers were WR Gordon Jones, TE Don Kindt, DB Bruce Montella, QB Jeff Miller, TE Sylvester Byrd, LB Mark Tagart, DE Mark Baker and DB Ed Zeman.

Gault Is Preparing For a 'Big Year'

PLATTEVILLE, WI — This looks like the year Willie Gault's fans and critics have both been waiting for. Finally, the Bears need him.

It's the year they're committed to bringing their passing game up to the standards of the rest of their offense and defense. That is the only facet of their game that has been lagging, and even there, the Bears ranked seventh in NFL passing last year before Jim McMahon's injuries, which started their slide to 20th.

IT'S THE YEAR Gault is the only receiver who is satisfying coach Mike Ditka in training camp. Dennis McKinnon, the other starter, is expected to miss the season recovering from knee surgery. Before the first exhibition game, Ditka said none of his would-be successors had "jumped out" and earned a job.

It's the year the Bears will have to ask a lot of Gault.

"I hope so," he says.

GAULT HAS BEEN waiting for this, too.

"I think he's going to have a big year," McMahon says.

He always has been capable. For three years, Gault was a marquee player without a marquee.

HE ALWAYS HAD thrived on the pressure of the center ring. Before he joined the Bears, Gault was a star wherever he played, on both tracks and gridirons. He not only performed well, he did it with charisma. Fans loved him, and he knew how to take a curtain call. He finished his college football career blowing kisses and bowing to the delighted crowd.

He even had the dramatic flair that made heroes of Muhammad Ali, Reggie Jackson and now, McMahon. Gault could put pressure on himself and then use it to squash an opponent.

"I'm at my best when there's pressure and when there's a big game," Gault says. "When they're relying on me, I'm at my best, I think.

"I'M ALWAYS MUCH, much faster in games than I am in practice. It's just the adrenaline flowing, I think. When a Carl Lewis is next to you, you run faster."

But the Bears haven't given him that pressure. They've told him to get better, certainly. They begged and badgered him to work harder. But they never counted on him.

They never had an offense that would go as far as Gault could take it. Instead of Carl Lewis, they kept putting Cliff the Mailman next to him.

GAULT'S VALUE TO the team was more for what he might do than what he did do. He might have outrun the defense and scored a touchdown on any play. He made defenses back up. That was the only way they could deal with his world-class speed.

By spreading out the defense, Gault made it easier for the Bears to run. So they ran. The led the league in rushing all three of Gault's seasons. In the Bears' cast of characters, Gault was the nameless face who fed straight lines to the leading man.

By Kevin Lamb

The Bears got better each year, so there was no need to change the formula. They were content to let Gault scare defenses instead of scar them.

BUT IN SO DOING, they were putting a lid on Gault's fearsome talent. He was a star waiting to shine. He needed the pressure of knowing the Bears needed him as more than a decoy.

"It makes you concentrate much more," he says. "You know you're going to be in a situation where you can control the outcome of the game. You're put in that situation, but you want to know you're going to perform when you're in that situation. It pushes you."

Gault was a star his first season, ever so briefly. In a three-game stretch, he scored six touchdowns.

"I TORE UP THE league for three or four weeks," he says. "I was leading in almost every category. Then all of a sudden, nothing.

"What was a young guy supposed to think? It was a frustrating time."

By the end of the year, he was lashing out at McMahon and Ditka for misusing and abusing him. His feelings were hurt. He was confused. What was a young guy supposed to do?

"YOU ALWAYS WANT to do more," Gault says. "If you don't, it's not too good to be complacent or satisfied.

"But I've sort of been able to deal with it and know that everything's not always going to be the way you want it. In football, the object is to win. Our team has to be more of a running and control-passing offense compared to that of a San Diego or Miami.

"You have to sacrifice some individuality for the team concept of winning. So you're not given an opportunity to do a lot of things you want to do. You do what's best for the team. That might not be catching a pass. It might be blocking. It might be clearing out for another receiver.

"IT MAKES FOR more of a complete receiver, I guess. You just have to do the best you can and not worry about it."

It took time to realize that.

"Definitely," says Gault. "It's a learning experience. It's a growing-up experience, and I've grown up a great deal in three years."

ESPECIALLY LAST YEAR. Gault knew there was room for improvement. He was tired of all the talk from his first two seasons. Wouldn't block. Wouldn't fight for the ball. Didn't run pass routes the right length. He wanted to stifle it.

He looked at a lot of film that off-season. At training camp, he showed up early with the rookies. Within two weeks, the Bears were talking about the new Willie Gault.

"I've seen more maturity and desire in Willie," general

Continued Next Page

WILLIE GAULT ENJOYS the Bears' one-sided victory over the Steelers. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Gault

Continued From Page 11

manager Jerry Vainisi said a year ago. "I think he's decided to be the best football player he can be."

HE ALWAYS COULD run fast. It was the one thing that always has set Gault apart from most other receivers.

It's one thing that can't be taught. The problem is, burners don't need to fall back on the things that can be taught. They outrun their faults. Then when they get to the NFL, speed isn't enough.

"I've learned a great deal in my first three years," Gault says. "How to run my patterns and use my speed. How to know what a defensive back is going to do. How to adjust to him.

"HOW TO SLOW down when a ball's underthrown and let the defender hit you so you can get the pass-interference call. Or try to catch the ball out in front so he can't get it.

"Those things just come by playing. I've always been able to catch the ball and run good routes. Those are just the little things you learn year by year."

Those are the things that made coach Mike Ditka say last year, "I'm seeing the emergence of what I think will be as good a wide receiver as there is in football. He has such explosion. He puts so much fear into people."

GAULT HAD HIS best season by far last year, even if he did have only one touchdown catch in 16 games. His first two Bear seasons, he caught eight and six.

For one thing, Gault counted nine catches that put the Bears inside the 10. He was helping them score. He gained 23.0 yards per catch, second in the league for receivers with more than 20 catches.

Those are mere numbers, though. So are the 11 playoff catches for 253 yards, including 129 in the Super Bowl. Gault's best year was built on little things, on the work that made those numbers possible.

"I WORKED REAL hard. I ran extra. I was in great shape," he says. "I think they realized that. They realized what I could do, given the opportunity."

That was when he proved himself, not in the Super Bowl.

"He'd worked so hard in practice," Ditka says. "The quarterback has confidence in him. He notices he's always full-speed. He notices he's going for the ball."

BEFORE THE PLAYOFFS, Ditka told Gault the Bears needed him. Not just to be there but to do things. They gave him the ball and let him run with it.

"A lot of our succss at the end of last year was because of the way he played," Ditka says now. In the Super Bowl, Gault was the offensive catalyst. Payton carried fewer balls and more spears.

There's room for them both in an offense. Just ask Lynn Swann and Franco Harris, Larry Csonka and Paul Warfield, Alan Ameche and Ray Berry.

To make Gault a star, all the Bears have to do is ask. He's ready.

Pre-Season Schedule

Saturday, August 2
New England 21, St. Louis 16
Sunday, August 3
***BEARS** 17, Dallas 6*
Tuesday, August 5
Houston 17, L.A. Rams 14
Wednesday, August 6
Atlanta 31, N.Y. Giants 24

Friday, August 8
Philadelphia 17, Detroit 9
Seattle 21, Indianapolis 14
Saturday, August 9
***BEARS** 33, Pittsburgh 13*
Cleveland 19, Buffalo 17
Green Bay 38, N.Y. Jets 14
St. Louis 26, Tampa Bay 10
Kansas City 20, Cincinnati 10
Minnesota 30, Miami 16
New Orleans 10, Denver 7
San Diego 20, Dallas 0
Sunday, August 10
San Francisco 32, L.A. Raiders 0
New England 18, Washington 7

Friday, August 15
Cleveland at Miami (ABC-TV) . . . . . 8 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington . . . . . 8 p.m.
Seattle at Detroit . . . . . 8 p.m.
Saturday, August 16
Atlanta at Tampa Bay . . . . . 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Houston . . . . . 8 p.m.
Cincinnati at New York Jets . . . . . 8 p.m.
Dallas at Los Angeles Raiders (NBC-TV) . . . . 6 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota . . . . . 7 p.m.
Indianapolis at **BEARS** . . . . . 6 p.m.
Kansas City at St. Louis . . . . . 7 p.m.
New England at New Orleans . . . . . 7 p.m.
N.Y. Giants vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee . . . . 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at San Diego . . . . . 6 p.m.
Monday, August 18
San Francisco at Los Angeles Rams . . . . . 7 p.m.
Friday, August 22
Minnesota at Seattle . . . . . 7:30 p.m.
New England at Los Angeles Raiders . . . . . 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Dallas (ABC-TV) . . . . . 7 p.m.
Saturday, August 23
Buffalo at Kansas City . . . . . 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta . . . . . 8 p.m.
Detroit at Indianapolis . . . . . 7:30 p.m.
Green Bay at Cincinnati . . . . . 7 p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia . . . . . 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Houston . . . . . 8 p.m.
New York Jets at New York Giants . . . . . 8 p.m.
St. Louis at **BEARS** (CBS-TV) . . . . . 8 p.m.
San Diego at Los Angeles Rams . . . . . 7 p.m.
San Francisco at Denver . . . . . 7 p.m.
Washington at Tampa Bay . . . . . 7 p.m.
Thursday, August 28
Cleveland at Los Angeles Raiders . . . . . 7 p.m.
New York Jets at Philadelphia . . . . . 7:30 p.m.
Friday, August 29
Atlanta at Washington . . . . . 8 p.m.
Detroit at Cincinnati . . . . . 8 p.m.
Los Angeles Rams at Denver (NBC-TV) . . . . 6 p.m.
St. Louis at San Diego . . . . . 7 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco . . . . . 6 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Miami . . . . . 8 p.m.
Saturday, August 30
BEARS vs. Buffalo at South Bend, Ind. . . 1:30 p.m.
Houston at Dallas (CBS-TV) . . . . . 8 p.m.
Kansas City at New Orleans . . . . . 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Indianapolis . . . . . 7:30 p.m.
New England at Green Bay . . . . . 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at New York Giants . . . . . 8 p.m.

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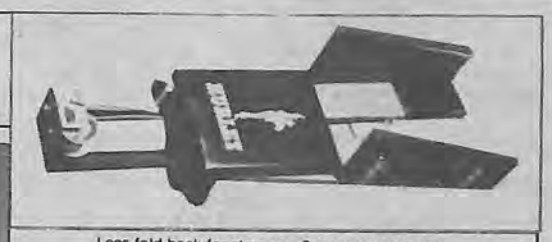

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Moorehead Is Ready To Defend the Title

For Emery Moorehead training camp has become a sort of escape from the euphoria that has attached itself to the Chicago Bears ever since their 46-10 thrashing of the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX.

The Bears, Moorehead included, have cashed in during the off-season, gorging themselves on banquets, radio and television commercials, fan tours and all other manner of personal appearances. "It was great," says Moorehead, "but after all that hoopla I was ready to go to camp.

"I WAS READY for a change of pace, the change of playing football again, because that's really what all of us do best."

The demand for Bears players was nothing short of

By Michael Haggerty

amazing.

"All the players — even the rookies — were out doing the autograph sessions and all those other things and, of course, the price for an appearance just about doubled for everybody. There's been a great difference. Guys were traveling all over," he goes on.

"THOSE KINDS OF things are incentives for us to win it all again this season. But to do so we have to be in camp working hard. It's important that we don't forget what it was that got us there in the first place."

Still, the tight end savors the victory. "I think we showed that we wanted badly to win the Super Bowl," he reflects. "We were excited that we won the game and everything but that day, while it was going on, was sort of unbelievable, the way it happened.

"What else could any athlete ask for in his hometown?" queries the Evanston product. "It was a great honor, a great feeling. People were coming up to me on the street, congratulating me and telling me that they've been Bears fans for years. I'd say, 'I know what you're saying, because I grew up here too. I know.' It was great to have been part of it."

WHAT LINGERS MOST in Moorehead's memory are the locker room scene and Chicago's now-famous "welcome home" parade. "You know, you watch what happens in locker rooms after the Super Bowl, the World Series and then you realize, wow, now you're part of it all," he remembers.

"All of the sudden it's you and there's Pete Rozelle presenting the trophy to the McCaskeys. You just felt so good for them. And you just wished that George Halas could've seen it. George Halas, who started the whole thing by hiring Iron Mike.

"Chicago's never seen anything like that parade," he smiles. "I don't think there's ever been a parade like that downtown. When we got downtown it was like, wow! Goosebumps. Everything was just wild."

Four days after the Super Bowl, he went on a fans cruise with Shaun Gayle and Stefan Humphries, and the tour docked in Mexico to the accompaniment of "Welcome Super Bowl Champion Chicago Bears" banners at the landing site. Five days after getting back to the States, Moorehead, Jeff Fisher and Steve Fuller went on an NFL fans skiing junket to Switzerland.

"WE'D MEET PEOPLE in the Alps who'd recognize us as Bears and they'd just say: "Refrigerator. You play with the Refrigerator," he grins. "It was something."

TYRONE KEYS (far right) tries to find a way to get to Pittsburgh quarterback Mark Malone. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Then of course, there was the London blitz. Moorehead was able to elude the hubub somewhat for a happening of a more private nature.

For the past several years he has been receiving fan mail from 13-year-old Sandra Moorhead, who lives outside of London. Because her name is so similar to that of the Bears player, she became quite a fan of his. She had been trying to get tickets to what would be the 17-6 win over Dallas at Wembley.

SANDRA HAD ENTERED contests and came up with several other schemes to get the ducats, but to no avail. Quietly, with no fanfare, she got some, from Emery Moorehead who took the time to arrange to meet her and sit down with her for a long conversation.

Then it was back to Platteville, where still-more hero-worshippers congregate. At all the venues in between, Moorehead has been careful about displaying his Super Bowl ring.

"It's really a great piece of jewelry, but it does tend to cause a lot of conversation. I tend to be a little more private, a little more low-key than that," he says.

"BUT IT SEEMS no matter where you are — in Platteville, in Chicago, in the 'burbs — if you're a Bears player people recognize you right off the bat. They recognize you and come up to you and if you wear that Super Bowl ring, they're definitely going to want to be grabbing for your hand to look at the ring.

"It's worth a little over 4,000 bucks, so you don't really wear it every day. You wouldn't want somebody to beat you up and take it away from you," laughs the burly Moorehead, who stands 6-2 and weighs a solid 220.

"There's been so much attention, so much hype that, believe it or not going to training camp has been a relief. I was so glad to go to training camp because I think it's important to escape from all that and get back to what brought us to the Super Bowl," he emphasizes.

"Training camp is the time for hard work. Training camp meant that the time for hoopla was over. It was time to get it all over with, to get back on track. It's all history now; it's all in the past. What we can do for ourselves now is to prepare for the upcoming season. That's where it's at."

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BEARS WIN

Continued From Page 3

The Steelers put together an impressive drive to open the third quarter, and got as far as the Bear 37, but Anderson missed on a 55-yard field goal attempt.

LATER IN THE quarter, the Bears began a drive at their own 4. It started with a 21-yard pass to RB Thomas Sanders, and also included a 13-yard run by Sanders, and an 11-yard scamper by FB Matt Suhey. When the drive stalled at the Steeler 38, Butler drilled a 51-yard field goal to make it 19-6.

Early in the final quarter, the Steelers closed the gap to 19-13 on a five-yard touchdown pass from QB Scott Campbell to RB Warren Seitz. But the Bears got those points back in a hurry.

Just four plays later, Tomczak connected with a wide-open Sanders on a 61-yard scoring strike to make it 26-13. The play came on a third-and-one situation. It was supposed to be a quarterback sneak.

"WE RAN A LOT of sneaks at Ohio State," said Tomczak. "When the coach calls a sneak, you've got to change it a little bit in professional football. I got the play a little late from the sidelines. I improvised in the huddle and called a different play. I would have caught some vocal comments from Mike if it didn't go well."

The Bear scoring machine wasn't through. Barnes, the sixth-round draft choice out of Oregon, had already fumbled away two punt returns in the game. But he came through with flying colors on his last return. He reaced 54 yards for a touchdown to make it 33-13.

"I never anticipate a touchdown until I'm in the end zone," said Barnes. "The blocking was excellent. You can't do it without the blocking."

Barnes and his teammates will try to make it three straight when they host the Indianapolis Colts in the preseason home opener next Saturday at Soldier Field. Kickoff is 6 p.m.

GAME NOTES: The Steelers had not lost a preseason opener since 1970. . . Until he missed on an extra point attempt in the second quarter, Kevin Butler had not missed a PAT since his freshman year in college. "There was no excuse for missing the extra point," said Butler. "It was a total lack of concentration and it could have cost us the game." . . . Kurt Becker, who played offensive tackle for the first time in a game, played both right and left tackle . . . Guard Tom Thayer played every offensive down . . . Safety Shaun Gayle left the game with a thigh bruise and quarterback Steve Fuller sustained a bruised elbow. Pittsburgh rookie Andrew Baker sustained a serious knee injury and had to be removed from the field on a stretcher . . . DT Dan Hampton (neck), QB Jim McMahon (groin pull) and RB Walter Payton (toe) did not play vs. the Steelers. TE Emery Moorehead was given the night off so the coaches could get a good look at the younger players . . . Rookie punter John Teltschik averaged 45 on three punts and had a long of 53.

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THOMAS SANDERS (right) races into the end zone after catching a 61-yard pass from Mike Tomczak. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Tomczak Quiets Ditka's Criticism

By Mark Friedlander

PITTSBURGH — Head coach Mike Ditka has criticized many of his players during his tenure with the Bears. So it is really no surprise when he tells the media a certain player needs to improve dramatically, or his future with the club may be in jeopardy.

However, most players usually don't respond like QB Mike Tomczak did last Saturday night vs. the Steelers. Instead of sulking over Ditka's comments, Tomczak put on a passing show which could be turned into a highlight film. He completed 17 of 23 passes, including 9 straight, for 238 yards and three touchdowns in guiding the Bears to a 33-13 victory before 57,000 Pittsburgh faithful.

"I WAS REALLY pleased with Tomczak," said Ditka. "I guess what I've got to do is criticize people. Then they step up and play awfully well."

Tomczak said he really didn't mind the criticism.

"Coach Ditka is vocal. He only becomes vocal when you're not playing up to your expectations," said Tomczak. "This is professional football. You get paid to play well. I think I was doing a few things out of context. He made it more realistic when it came out in print.

"EVERY ONCE IN awhile, you can get a little bit lackadaisical, not concentrating. It's just a matter of time. You've got to get schooled. Once I get an opportunity to play, things go well."

How did Tomczak rate his performance vs. the Steelers?

"I had a good game tonight, but you have to take everything in stride. Tomorrow is a new day. Next Saturday's game is a new game. We have to keep working hard this week," he said.

TOMCZAK DOESN'T EXPECT Ditka to overhaul the depth chart in the next few days.

"Competition brings out the best in people," Tomczak said. "I'm gonna push Steve (Fuller), and I hope Steve pushes me and Jim (McMahon). Jim is a heck of a quarterback and Steve has a lot of experience. I just want to do my part."

- Ditka expects a lot out of speedster Lew Barnes during this training camp. But that does not include fumbling three punt returns in the same pre-season game. Yet despite those errors vs. the Steelers last Saturday night, the coach wasn't about to bench the rookie late in the contest. That decision paid off because Barnes returned a punt 54 yards for a touchdown.

"(SPECIAL TEAMS COACH) Steve (Kazor) asked me how long I wanted to see him. I told Steve to put him back out there. Persistence pays off. Lew's got the ability to break those kicks. He's just pressing a little bit. He's just trying to make things happen."

Barnes was embarrassed about his fumbles on the earlier returns.

"I've never bobbled three balls in one game before. One a year was the limit in college," said Barnes. "I was trying to run with the ball before I had it, and was looking downfield. I wasn't concentrating on catching the ball.

"I THANK THE Lord and the coaches for giving me another chance. I wanted to do what I did at the end all through the game. Everybody was pulling for me on the last one."

- Pittsburgh head coach Chuck Noll knows what it's like to defend a Super Bowl title. He has done it four times. Noll was impressed with the way the Bears performed last Saturday.

"I understand a little bit why they're World Champs," he said. "Not a lot of flash. They just come out and run over your fanny, which they did pretty well. I would say we had a few things that went well for us, but the Bears had a few more."

Noll was later asked is he concerned about how his club will fare this year.

"Am I worried? If we played these guys every week, I'd be real worried, but we only play them twice this year," he said.

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Nice To Beat Cowboys

Dear Doug,

I realize it was only an exhibition game, but it was great that the Bears whipped the Cowboys. Anytime you beat those jerks, it's a thrill for all of us Cowboy haters.

Actually, I'm not even much of a Bear fan, but my cousin gets the **BEAR REPORT** and I had to drop you guys a note about my most-hated team.

Living up in Packer country, all I've got to say is beware: THE PACK WILL BE BACK! Forrest Gregg has a great training camp underway this year. He picked a lot of great players in the draft, and the team should improve dramatically.

Wouldn't it be something if your old friend, Bob Thomas, kicks the winning field goal in the Monday Night game at Lambeau.

I realize the Bears are still the best team in the business, and will be tough to knock off the throne. But remember how many other Super Bowl champs have bitten the dust the following season.

I really don't wish the Bears bad luck at all. I grew up in Chicago before moving to cheese land. But if the Bears can't do it again, give the Pack a legitimate chance.

Tom Polosky
Appleton, WI

Loves The Fridge

Dear Editor:

It was great to see the Fridge back in action in the victory over the Cowboys at London. Not only was it fun watching him score a touchdown by bowling over the Pokes, but he also was impressive on defense.

It looks like he is much improved in his defensive technique. Buddy, eat your heart out! He's no longer a rookie, but Buddy is a dumb cookie! How dare Ryan criticize this guy. There probably isn't a defensive player on the entire Philly squad who could handle the Fridge. Many people thought he was just a one-year phenom in 1985, but it seems like he is for real.

I wouldn't be surprised if the Fridge makes it to the Pro Bowl this year. Ditka and Tobin sure know how to pick those draft picks.

Mike Montoghue
Phoenix, AZ

Tomczak Getting Better

Dear Editor:

Quarterback Mike Tomczak looked like he had a lot of confidence in the victory over Dallas. He moved the club downfield pretty well. Even though the Bears didn't score any points while he was in there, he got the team into scoring position many times.

I wouldn't be surprised if Tomczak moves up to second string before the year is through. I don't have anything against Fuller, but Tomczak seems to have more ability and is getting better every day. Fuller may already be past his prime. Steve is an effective reserve, but would never make it as a starter for an entire season. Tomczak appears to have the ability to be a starter in the league. If McMahon ever decides to go on the PGA Tour, Tomczak will be ready to fill his shoes.

I watched Tomczak throughout his career at Ohio State, and he is both a leader and a winner. Five years from now, he could be leading the Bears to the Super Bowl.

Rabbi Marc Cohen
Chesterland, OH

Ditka Must Be Tough

Dear Doug,

I was overjoyed when the Bears won the Super Bowl. But it is time we started concentrating on this season. And for the Bears to repeat, Ditka is going to have to be tough on all the players.

The Bears will have to work 10 times as hard as any other team to get back. But you still must take one game at a time.

The Bears can't sit back and enjoy. They must go forward and be aggressive. Most important, the Bears have to want to win. Otherwise, all the hard work will be for nothing. And that is establishing wanting to win plus tough work. Ditka should be commended for his work.

Mike Peters
Sharon, WI

QUARTERBACK STEVE FULLER was shaken up in the first quarter at Pittsburgh and sat out the remainder of the game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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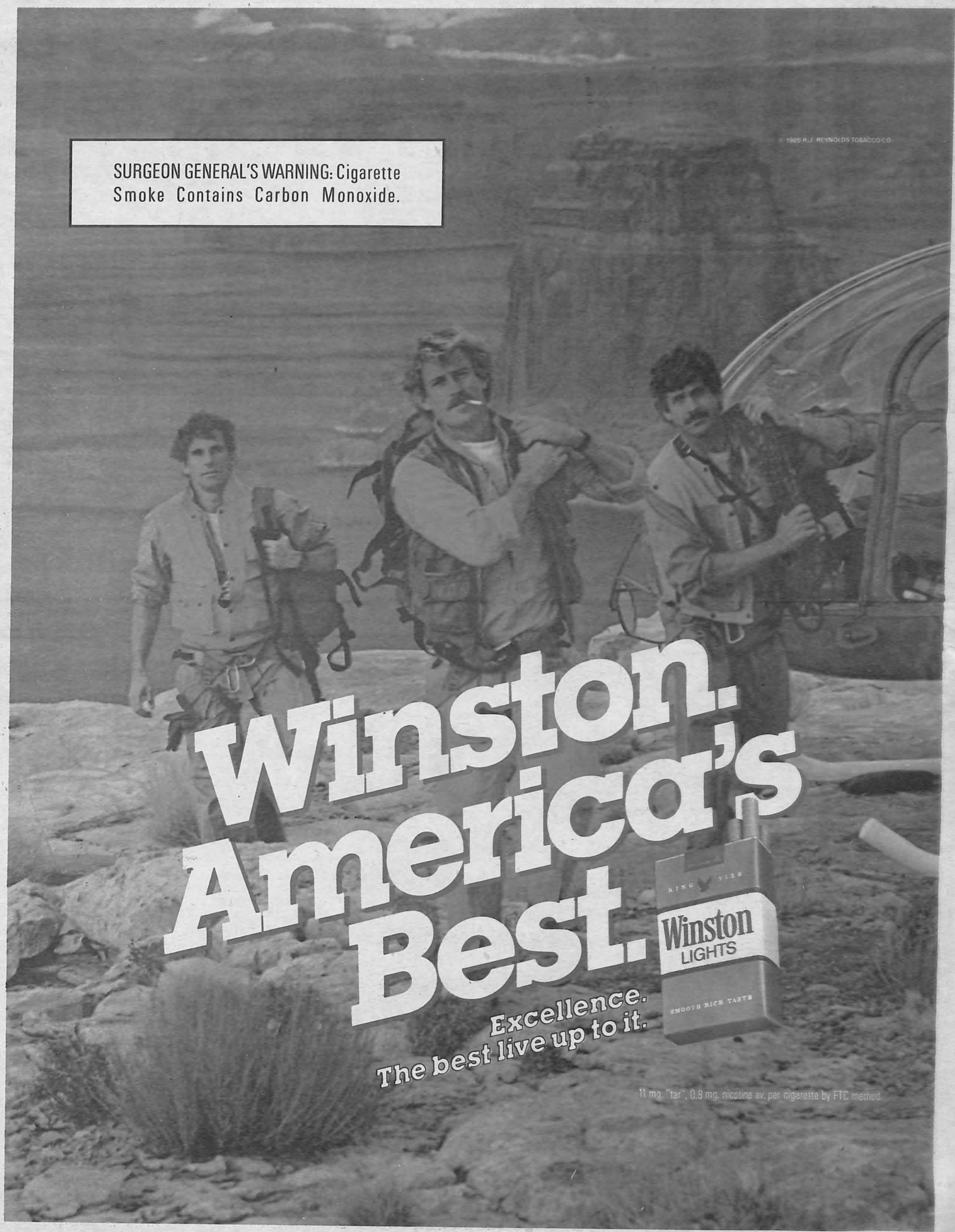
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